



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date	May 21, 2007
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Agenda Item No.	57
Roll Call No.	07-
Communication No.	07-306
Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to Proceed With Multi-Space Parking Meter Demonstration Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Authorizes the City Manager to proceed with a demonstration project to install and evaluate multi-space parking meters in the East Village and Court Avenue areas. As requested by the Downtown Parking Committee, the City requested proposals from companies that manufacture multi-space parking meters; four companies responded. Based on the information in the proposals, the Parking Committee, at its April 16, 2007 meeting, recommended that the City proceed with a six-month demonstration project to install two units each from three different companies in order to evaluate a range of unit types and modes of operation. The estimated cost for the demonstration project is approximately \$15,000. Following the six-month evaluation period, the Parking Committee will consider the performance of the various units, and make a recommendation whether the City should develop and implement a project to install permanent multi-space parking units in the downtown area.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$15,000 (estimate)

Funding Source: Parking Operations Fund, EN051, ENG100710, Parking Meter Maintenance and Collection, Page 125, 2006-2007 Operating Budget.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In March of this year, the City sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to companies that manufacture multi-space parking units. A total of four companies submitted proposals that provided detailed information about their unit or units and a proposed cost to furnish and install one or more units for a six-month evaluation period, and remove the unit(s) at the end of the demonstration period.

City staff from the Traffic and Transportation Division, Purchasing Division, and City Manager's Office reviewed the proposals, and determined that one proposal was not compliant with the terms of the RFP, but that each of the other three proposals were compliant and included equipment that was of interest to the City. Staff recommended that a demonstration project consisting of two different units from each of the three companies would provide good coverage of several options for the units as well as a good direct comparison of the units to other similar units. This comparison of the features and modes of operation will be very useful in a future determination as to whether the City should develop and implement a project to install permanent multi-space parking units in the downtown area.

The main options and modes of operation that will be evaluated include both solar power with batteries and direct A/C power, with both “Pay and Display” and “Pay by Space” types of operation. Pay and Display is the most common form of operation, where the parking customer parks at a space on the street, goes to the unit to pay for parking and receives a printed receipt, then returns to the vehicle and displays the receipt on the vehicle dash. To purchase additional time, the customer would have to return to the unit, get another receipt, and display it in the vehicle. In Pay-by-Space units, the customer parks at a marked space on the street, and goes to the unit to pay for parking for the numbered space that he or she has parked in. Depending on which options are included, the customer may be able to purchase extended time at their designated space by using another unit in a different location or by using their cell phone.

Each of the companies will provide their units for the six-month evaluation period at no cost to the City. The estimated cost for the shipping, installation, training, and removal of the six units to be evaluated is approximately \$15,000. The final exact costs will be determined based on the final installation details for each unit at each individual location.

At its April 16, 2007 meeting, the Parking Committee recommended that the City proceed with a six-month demonstration project as proposed by staff. Following the six-month evaluation period, the Parking Committee will consider the performance of the various units, and make a recommendation whether the City should develop and implement a project to install permanent multi-space parking units in the downtown area. City staff will work with the Downtown Community Alliance, businesses in the East Village and Court Avenue areas, and the Parking Committee to develop a detailed plan to receive public input and incorporate it into the overall evaluation of the units.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): Downtown Parking Committee

Date: April 16, 2007

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Recommended approval of a six-month demonstration project to evaluate multi-space parking units, with an approximate cost of \$15,000.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Future consideration regarding permanent purchase and installation of multi-space parking units.